(b) how much subsidy on sugar for the PDS is earmarked for this year; and

(c) what is the outflow of funds for administering the sugar control ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The Central Government allots levy sugar for distribution in the Public Distribution System (PDS) to State Government/Union Territory Administrations for distribution to approximately 3641 lakh people belonging to the Below Poverty Line in the country.

(b) There is a provision of Rs. 10.00 crores for sugar subsidy for the financial year 2002-2003.

(c) The Government Orders pertaining to sugar control are implemented by the Directorate of Sugar, an attached office of the Department of Food & Public Distribution. The budgetary allocation for Directorate of Sugar is Rs. 177.70 lakhs for the financial year 2002-2003.

Outcome of Indian efforts to bring back criminals from Pakistan

197. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the outcome of the diplomatic, political and other offensives mounted by India on Pakistan to deliver 20 most wanted Indian criminals in Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : On 31st December 2001, Government handed over to Pakistan a consolidated list of 20 fugitives from law, known to be residing in Pakistan with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India. It was pointed out to Pakistan that 15 of the criminals in the list already had Interpol Red Corner notices issued against them which also provided Pakistan sufficient basis to take action against them.

Pakistan has not responded positively to this request. The President of Pakistan, in his January 12 address to the Nation stated that there was no question of the Pakistani authorities handing over any Pakistan national to India. As regards the presence of non-Pakistan nationals, the President stated that Pakistan had not given any asylum to any such person.

The Government has consistently conveyed to the international community that action by Pakistan on the list of 20 will demonstrate its sincerity to permanently stop cross border terrorism against India. There is support and understanding for India's position.

High Level Talks with Chinese Government

198. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been any high level talks with the Chinese Government in light of the military build-up between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the role China is willing to play in case of the worst;

(c) what is Chinese stand now post Kaluchak massacre; and

(d) what was the motive behind a high level Chinese delegation visiting Islamabad during the military build-up with Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Government of India is committed to the development of friendly and good neighbourly relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel, mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns and equality. This has been underscored during recent high level political exchange between India and China, including during the visit of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji to India in January 2002, the visit of External Affairs Minister to China in March-April 2002 and during the meeting of Prime Minister and Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Almaty in June 2002. Both sides are taking steps to further promote the development of bilateral relations.